

IRONTON MISSOURI, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER, 22, 1904

GOVERNOR DOCKERY'S  
OPENING SPEECH.

Enthusiastic Audience Heard Him Open Campaign In Cole County.

Spoke at the Court House Wednesday Night to a Crowded House—Sound Democratic Doctrine On State Issues.

From the State Tribune.

Governor Dockery opened the Democratic campaign in Cole county in a strong speech at the county court house Wednesday night. The room was crowded with Democrats, who listened attentively and enthusiastically to the remarks of the chief executive.

Governor Dockery drove to the court house from the mansion in his private conveyance, preceded by the local band. The crowd had already assembled and by the time Governor Dockery arose to deliver his speech standing room only could be had. The speaking was under the auspices of the Capital City Democratic Club, and the speaker of the evening was presented by President R. W. Morrow in a few well chosen words.

Governor Dockery was in excellent mettle, and from the time he started held the close attention of his audience. His speech was frequently interrupted by applause as he delivered the facts about Republican misrule and Democratic administrations of Missouri. He confined himself to the record and arraigned the Republican party by its own actions. His speech was masterful and to the point, full of sense. He confined himself entirely to State issues, speaking as follows:

The party to which I belong, for thirty-two years, has administered the affairs of this great Democratic Commonwealth with conspicuous ability and fidelity.

Under its rule Missouri is recognized as the best governed State of the Union.

I am proud to be a Missouri Democrat. I glory in the history and achievements of my party during the long period of its ascendancy. Every Missourian should feel a sense of glowing pride when he recounts the astounding progress of the State under Democratic administrations.

Missouri, during the last three decades, has leaped from ninth in population to fifth rank among the American States. Her progress in other respects has kept pace with her wonderful increase of population.

When the Democratic party succeeded the Republican party it found the public credit dishonored, our fiscal management a menace to tax payers; our educational system inferior to other States; the penitentiary a reproach to honest methods; and the people oftentimes burdened in State, County and Municipalities with inefficient and corrupt administrations.

This conduct of affairs, in some instances, scandalized almost beyond comparison the State and hampered our productive industries.

Under the capable and honest management of Democracy the public credit was restored; our financial affairs ably administered; our educational system uplifted and our State institutions multiplied and brought to a very high standard of efficiency.

More than one hundred millions of the people's money have been collected and disbursed to meet the necessities of the public service, without the loss or misappropriation of a single dollar, while at the same time the tax rate has been reduced below that of any other State.

The benign influence of Democracy, not only in the growth of our institutions, and the payment of the entire bonded debt, but is likewise manifest in the bounding strides which have been made in private enterprise.

Manufacturing industries have grown mightily; a vast railway system constructed; great cities are expanding; farms are enormously enhancing in value, while the development of horticultural, mineral and other resources has attracted the favorable attention of the civilized world.

The Louisiana Purchase Exposition, now in progress at St. Louis, has established beyond cavil, the pre-eminence of Missouri among the States of the American Union.

It is officially shown that Missouri is first in agriculture and leads all other States in the extent of her livestock and horticultural wealth. Within her borders is mined eighty per cent of the zinc of this country, ninety per cent of the nickel, and a large output of lead. The wealth of coal underlying our soil is almost beyond computation. Our building stone is inexhaustible and in manufactures and commerce Missouri is in the very front rank. She produces one-tenth of the corn and one-twelfth of the wheat of the world. Missouri, in fact, gladdens with industrial glories.

God, in the plenitude of His wisdom, has dowered this State with almost every natural advantage. To these riches has been added a population patriotic, enterprising and God-fearing.

Is it any wonder that such a State, so well governed, should have attained the proud position it occupies before the representatives of the nations, who are now visiting the greatest industrial exposition of all time?

This marvelous advancement of Missouri has been made despite the calumnies of the leaders of the Republican party.

The policy of the Republican party has tended to hinder development, retard emigration, and intimidate capital seeking investment here, but notwithstanding venomous partisan mendacity, our growth has been phenomenal. It is no longer in the power of Republican leaders to stay the march of Missouri's glorious progress.

It is not proper, therefore, that the destinies of this sovereign State should be again committed to a party whose leaders have maligning it and been a stumbling block in our industrial pathway.

## THE REPUBLICAN DEBT.

The Republican record in the State and during its recent control of St. Louis discloses gross mismanagement and a riotous waste of public money.

The Republican State platform, adopted at St. Joseph, boasts of the reduction of the public debt during the six years of the administrations of Governors Fletcher and McClurg.

It would seem to the impartial observer that this reference to the Republican period of "splendid finance" was singularly inopportune. It recalls the darkest period in our financial history. It was the time our railroad securities were sold for the meager pittance of \$6,131,496, the taxpayers losing \$25,004,344 by these transactions, some of which were corruptly made.

The records of the United States Court at St. Louis show that the lobby then expended \$193,648.00 to debauch the Legislature and secure the release of the lien of the State upon the Missouri Pacific road, at a loss to the people of about six millions of dollars.

The investigation made shortly after the roads were sold also discloses that the Iron Mountain road was sold to the lowest bidder by the commission appointed by the Republican Governor, the purchaser being a brother of a member of the commission.

Nearly all of our railroad securities were wantonly or corruptly squandered, and the bonded debt thus fastened upon the people.

The reduction of the debt, during the period of Republican control, was accomplished almost solely by the application of the war indemnity received from the Federal Government, the proceeds of the sales of railroads, and by the use of money belonging to the school children of the State.

If the railroads upon which the State held liens to secure its bonds, declared by Governor Fletcher to be "single security" for their payment, had been sold for their real value the proceeds would have extinguished the entire bonded debt. This was not done. Corruption was then rampant. Unworthy influences controlled this legislation.

The bonded debt at the time of the inauguration of Governor Woodson amounted to \$21,768,000. This debt, with interest, has been fully paid. The last of the outstanding bonds was canceled on the 28th of February, 1903. The only outstanding liability is \$4,398,539.42 of School and Seminary Certificates.

The stupendous drain upon the resources of the people of more than forty millions to pay the principal and interest of the public debt, is the price Missourians have paid for six years of Republican rule. Republican domination comes high and the taxpayers will hesitate long before they restore that party to power which so shamefully mismanaged our fiscal affairs.

## DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN RECORDS.

I shall concisely summarize the salient features of Republican and Democratic rule in Missouri. The discussions of former campaigns have so thoroughly familiarized the people with the records of the two parties that it becomes necessary to submit but a brief synopsis.

Under Republican rule our railroad securities were recklessly squandered and a debt of more than twenty-five millions of dollars entailed upon the people.

Under Democratic rule this debt, together with the interest thereon, has been paid.

Under Republican rule, although the bonds of the State bore six and seven per cent interest, they were sold at a ruinous discount.

Under Democratic rule, the public credit was fully restored, the debt refunded at three and one-half per cent, and the bonds commanded a premium equal to those of the National Government.

Under Republican rule the rate of taxation was fifty cents on the one hundred dollars' valuation.

Under Democratic rule all the functions of government have been properly met, while the tax rate has been reduced to seventeen cents on the one hundred dollars' valuation, seven cents of which is dedicated to public education.

Under Republican rule only one-fourth of the State revenue was annually distributed for the support of the public schools.

Under Democratic rule one-third of the entire State revenue goes to maintain our public school system.

Under Republican rule the railroads wholly escaped taxation.

Under Democratic rule the railroad assessment of 1904 exceeds ninety-four millions.

Under Republican rule the fees of all the departments were covered into the pockets of State officials.

Under Democratic rule these earnings, amounting to over one-half million of dollars annually, are covered into the State Treasury.

Under Republican rule the administration of the Penitentiary was a burden to tax-payers.

Under Democratic rule business methods prevailed, and the Penitentiary is self-sustaining.

Under Republican rule there were only eight State institutions.

Under Democratic rule they have increased to twenty-one.

Under Republican rule the State school fund amounted to only one million, six hundred thousand dollars.

Under Democratic rule this fund has increased until it is now nearly four and a half millions of dollars.

The entire capital school fund of the State, counties, townships and special districts now aggregates the magnificent total of \$13,023,997.00.

Under Republican rule, the average yearly distribution of State school moneys was but \$161,885.00, the per capita distribution being only twenty-eight cents.

Under Democratic rule, \$1,285,530.07 was distributed in 1904, the average to each child enumerated being one dollar and twenty-nine cents.

Under Republican rule the school fund in part was diverted to unlawful uses.

Under Democratic rule the moneys thus unlawfully appropriated have been restored to the school fund.

Under Republican rule the interest upon State moneys was a perquisite to State Treasurers, adding greatly to their compensation.

Under Democratic rule the interest is covered into the State Treasury.

Under Republican rule county courts imposed more than twenty millions of bonded indebtedness upon the counties, in most cases without the consent of the taxpayers.

Under Democratic rule almost this entire indebtedness has been paid.

Under Republican rule foreign insurance companies and certain other corporations contributed nothing to the support of the State Government.

Under Democratic rule there was paid in 1903 into the State Treasury \$1,503,791.02 on account of State Department fees, interest on public moneys, incarceration and foreign insurance taxes, beer inspection fees, etc., all of which escaped taxation under Republican rule.

This is only a brief epitome of the essential features of Republican and Democratic fiscal administrations.

REPUBLICAN RULE IN ST. LOUIS.

Passing, however, from Republican rule in Missouri, I note briefly the record of the Republican party in its recent control of the World's Fair city, under the Ziegenhain administration.

The conditions of that great city under Ziegenhain were simply appalling.

In the scope and variety of corrupt methods

prevailing, Republican control was more odious even than the famous Tweed rule in the city of New York.

The revenues were wantonly and corruptly wasted; public institutions neglected; the streets in part unlighted; public records in some cases destroyed to conceal evidences of crime, and franchises of great value corruptly bartered. Important legislation demanded by the business interests could be secured only by the use of bribery. Corruption honeycombed almost every department of the city.

At last the people awoke to the shameful conditions which were obvious, and the still more corrupt conditions that were believed to exist. Reform was necessary.

In the spring an assembly of Harry B. Hawes and other Democrats, the Republican party was swept from power in 1900, and in three subsequent elections Democratic supremacy was still more strongly entrenched.

The Democratic officials elected have been faithful to duty. Corruption has given place to honesty; prodigal waste of public money to judicious economy; inefficient management to correct business methods; while the judicial machinery has been courageous and impartial in the enforcement of law.

The crimes committed under the Ziegenhain administration were exposed under the leadership of that fearless Democratic Circuit Attorney Joseph W. Folk, now the Democratic nominee for Governor.

Indictments were returned against bribe givers and bribe takers. Five hoodlums have already reached our Penitentiary, and others are on the way.

All of the hoodlum crimes were committed in 1899, and prior years, before my election to the office of Governor, or the election of a single Democratic official in St. Louis.

The Democratic party in St. Louis fully measures up to the Jeffersonian requirements and has earned the right to continued supremacy.

The investigation of the St. Louis grand jury, under the able guidance of Mr. Folk, exposed corruption in that city.

The investigation by the grand jury at the State Capital, under the skillful direction of Attorney General Crow, resulted in the indictment of five senators and the resignation of the Lieutenant-Governor.

Corruption was known to exist in St. Louis, but its exposure and punishment would probably not have been made but for the lashings of the guilty consciences of the criminals themselves. There was no occasion for apprehension on their part during Republican rule. No attempt whatever was made by any Republican official to expose corruption. Hoodlum in fact developed into a system and its methods became an open secret.

But when a courageous, tireless, Democratic circuit attorney entered upon the work of reform, some of the criminals made haste to secure immunity by revealing their official misconduct.

## LEGISLATIVE RECORD.

During the last session of the general assembly there was much discussion of alleged hoodlum in that body. In view of this fact, I requested Judge Hazell to summon a grand jury to investigate the charges of official dereliction.

The grand jury convened, and under my direction, as provided by the statutes, Attorney-General Crow assisted the prosecuting attorney of Cole county in the conduct of the investigation.

A faithless Lieutenant-governor made the startling disclosure to the Attorney-General which aroused all law-abiding citizens. This was followed by his resignation. Five senators were indicted. One senator was convicted, two were acquitted, and the other cases are still awaiting trial.

It is not my province to pass upon the guilt or innocence of the accused. The courts must do that. However, all the power of the great office committed to me by the people has been used to aid Mr. Folk and Attorney-General Crow in the prosecution of hoodlums.

There should be speedy and impartial trials, and if guilty, the penalty of the law should be inflicted.

Of those indicted in St. Louis, thirteen are classes as Republicans and six as Democrats. Of the legislative offenders, two are Democrats, and four are Republicans.

There is, however, no politics in crime. Criminals are sinners in the eyes of the law, and the courage to do right, the Democratic party will continue to purge its ranks of the few officials who are recreant to duty.

In the exercise of my constitutional prerogative I vetoed thirty bills passed by the last general assembly. No "sand-bagging" measure has become a law under this administration. Every bill of general interest approved by me, except one, where a constitutional question was subsequently raised, would meet my sanction now.

I speak thus positively swept the whole field of investigation. If bribe money was used during the last session of the legislature it was used to defeat the passage of bills repealing existing statutes and not to secure the enactment of new legislation.

## CORPORATE ASSESSMENT.

The assessment of railroad and other corporate property is the occasion of criticism by a reckless partisan press.

The law devolves that duty upon the State Board of Equalization, consisting of the five elective officers constituting the Executive Department.

These officers have faithfully discharged that duty. There has been no discrimination in favor of corporate interests. The criticism of inadequate corporate assessment made by Republican leaders, comes with ill grace from a party which during its control levied not one dollar of taxes against railroads, although the rates of taxation upon other forms of property were laid with a heavy hand.

Since the Democratic party came into power there has been, year by year, a steady increase in the assessment of railroad and other corporate property, outstripping the relative increase in the assessment of real and personal property by local assessors.

The assessment of railroads, street railways, bridges, telegraph and telephone properties reached its highest point during the present year, amounting to \$131,142,600.00.

This assessment is nearly thirty-three millions greater than that of 1900, the highest assessment of corporate property in a single year prior to my inauguration as governor.

There has been an increase of substantially seventeen millions of dollars in the assessed valuation of railroad property alone during the four years of this administration.

Let us apply still another test by which the people may fairly judge of the work of the present State Board of Equalization. Let us compare the assessment of the 7,300 miles of railroads and street railways in existence in 1900 with the assessment of the same mileage at the recent session of the board of Equalization, it is shown that there is a net increase of \$5,588,767 in 1904 over 1900 in the valuation of these properties. That is to say, in 1904 the State Board of Equalization increased the assessed valuation of railroad and street railway property, in operation in 1900, nearly nineteen millions of dollars, more than in 1900, the increase exceeding \$2,500 per mile.

It is apparent, therefore, that the board of equalization has largely increased the assessment of railroad and other corporate property during the period covered by this administration.

A comparison of the assessment of railroad property in Missouri with that of adjoining States is equally favorable to Democratic management.

The average assessment per mile in Missouri for the year 1903 as compared with our neighbors is as follows: \$7,729; Iowa, \$4,981; Kansas, \$6,870; and Missouri, \$15,003.

In further vindication of the Missouri State Board of Equalization, I cite another illustration. The lines of the Santa Fe Railway extend through the States of Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas. The testimony taken before the Board of Equalization only a few days since shows that the Santa Fe Railway is assessed per mile in Kansas at an average of \$6,972; Illinois, \$9,217; Iowa, \$14,274; and Missouri, \$16,004.

The comparative assessment of other railway lines which operate in Missouri

and adjacent states is equally eloquent in support of the Missouri Board of Equalization against the assaults of carping critics.

Illinois, Iowa and Kansas are rock-ribbed Republican States. If Democratic Missouri has been direct in corporate assessment, what have Republicans to say of the corporate assessments of these Republican States?

## STREET RAILWAY AND TELEPHONE ASSESSMENT.

The State Board of Equalization has been true to the people not only in the assessment of railroad property, but its action in respect to the assessment of street railways is equally commendable.

It has been but a few years since these corporations were assessed locally. The Republican party then had full control of St. Louis, and the street railways were assessed, in 1898, at only five and one-half millions of dollars.

The Democratic State Board has nearly quadrupled the assessment of this property, as it now aggregates more than twenty millions.

The street railways of Kansas City, in 1900, were assessed at two and one-half millions of dollars. The present year they are assessed at \$5,572,112, being an increase of over three millions.

The assessed valuation of the street railways of St. Joseph has been increased from a quarter of a million of dollars in 1900 to more than a million of dollars in 1904.

Telephone property was also originally assessed by local authority. At the session of the Legislature in 1901 that duty was devolved upon the State Board of Equalization.

When the assessment of the Missouri and Kansas Telephone Company of Kansas City was made by the local assessor the valuation of that property was fixed at fifty thousand dollars. The State Board of Equalization has just assessed this property at \$825,000.00, being an increase of nearly three quarters of a million.

When the local assessor fixed the assessed valuation of the Bell Telephone Company of St. Louis, it was fixed at less than six hundred thousand dollars.

In 1904 the assessment was more than doubled by the State Board of Equalization.

It must be apparent to any fair minded citizen that the State Board of Equalization has impartially and honestly executed the trust committed to it by law. It has assessed railroad property very much higher than the assessing Boards of neighboring States, and largely increased the assessment of street railways and telephone properties over that made by local assessors.

## WHAT THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS DONE.

I desire now to state succinctly some of the accomplishments of the Democratic party under this administration, and to tender grateful acknowledgments to my associates in office. With unswerving loyalty and fidelity they have performed every duty, and in every battle for the people have been found upon the right side of public questions.

The State Treasury is in a most satisfactory condition. Its revenues are more than ample to meet appropriations. Unlike the National Treasury, the Missouri Treasury is not confronted by a growing deficiency. The Federal Treasury, under Republican control, is now menaced by expenditures constantly exceeding its income. The Missouri Treasury, under Democratic control, has an increasing income, enabling it to promptly pay all demands. This administration will also be able to turn over to Governor Folk and his associates a comfortable treasury surplus to begin the administration of the next four years.

The question of continuing the State School Certificates has been settled. They now constitute an endowment fund for the maintenance of public education.

The last of the outstanding State bonds has been paid and this important event was fittingly commemorated.

A franchise law has been enacted, which settled the mooted question of the right to tax franchise values.

A modified beer law has been enacted, which has already brought into the Treasury about one million five hundred thousand dollars to aid in supporting the State Government.

More than two and one-half millions of dollars have been appropriated for necessary additions to the University, hospitals for the insane and other public institutions.

More than one million dollars have been disbursed by the State to advance the cause of public education in excess of the amount distributed during the prior four years. This increased outlay is due in part to the income arising from beer inspection fees.

A binding twine factory has been established in the Penitentiary, which will enable the State to lower the price of a commodity in general use among the farmers.

The assessment of corporate property has been increased by this administration nearly thirty-three millions of dollars.

The claim of the State against the National Government of \$475,000.00, for interest on bonds and defense warrants issued during the Civil strife, has been allowed by the Treasury Department and will be paid by Congress. The people are indebted to Senator Cockrell and Auditor Allen for the assured collection of this claim.

The rate of State taxation has been lowered to seventeen cents on the hundred dollars. This rate is below that of any other American State, but will be ample to adequately support our State institutions.

In Illinois the tax levy for all State purposes in 1903 was fifty-two cents on the one hundred dollars' valuation; in Kansas it was sixty-four cents; in Arkansas it was fifty-seven and one-half cents, and in Iowa it was thirty-five cents on the one hundred dollars' valuation.

One million dollars was voted by the people to make a suitable display of Missouri's resources at the World's Fair. This exhibit at the St. Louis Exposition is the pride of Missourians, and challenges the admiration of all beholders.

It is a crowning glory of the long period of Democratic ascendancy that Missouri should have been able to pay the inherited Republican bonded debt, increase its State institutions, and at the same time, greatly reduce the levy for State purposes. This unexampled feat in finance is an invitation to emigration and an encouragement for the investment of capital in Missouri enterprises.

Emigration has been crowding into our State, attracted both by the wealth of our resources and the excellence of our State government. The brutal east and the insolent standards of Republican politicians are powerless to keep out the farmers of Illinois, Iowa and other States, who now know that this is the best governed State, and at the lowest possible cost.

Democratic Missouri has not only been able to wisely administer her financial affairs, but her accomplishments in all the functions of government have been equally meritorious.

She has protected life and property; united capital and labor in the bonds of mutual interest, and by wise laws promoted the growth of all our industries.

Missouri has, in fact, achieved grandly. But we must not stand still. To stand still is to go backward. The spirit of the twentieth century forbids inaction. With faces to the future, Missourians should strive to accomplish fully the high destiny which awaits this wonderful commonwealth. Progressive policies must be continued; enterprise unfettered; capital protected; labor rewarded; farmers and all other classes encouraged.

All of these important duties should be committed to the party under whose management Missouri has grown to be one of the greatest commonwealths. Every material interest of this State demands the election of Parker, Folk, Rubey, Cook, Allen, Cowgill, Majors, Woodson, Oglesby and the whole Democratic ticket.

Not only the Presidency, the State, congressional, judicial, legislative and county tickets, but a United States Senatorship is at stake. Senator Cockrell must be returned to the American Senate, so long honored by his ability and integrity. The nominees upon the ticket are worthy of the enthusiastic support of every Democrat.

There must be no "stay at home" Democrats on election day. The same courage, fidelity and enthusiasm displayed in former campaigns should be displayed now.

Let us behind us trifles which vex but for the moment, the inevitable hosts of Missouri's Democracy must go forward to win the greatest triumph of its history.